

No. 671,234.

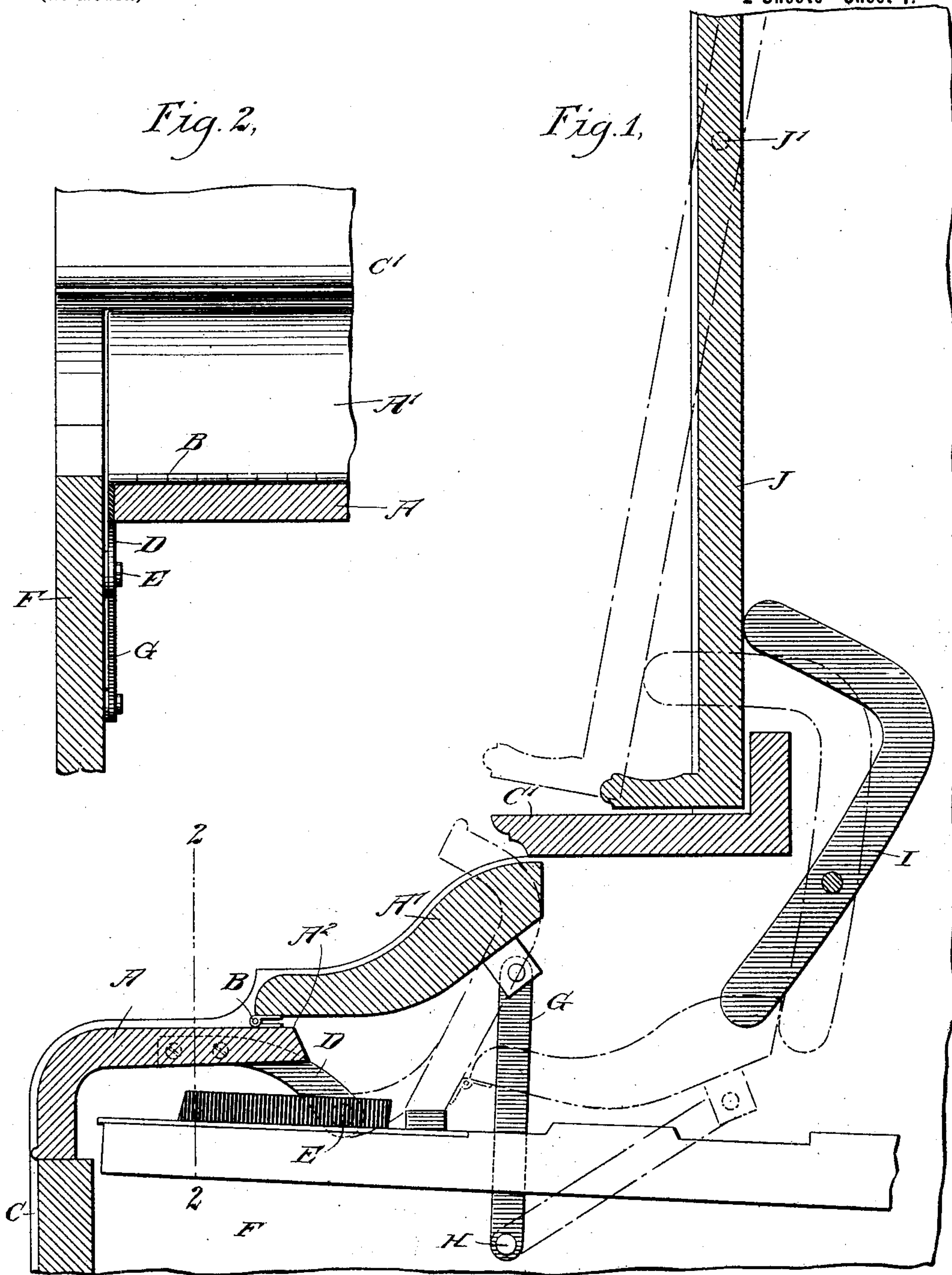
Patented Apr. 2, 1901.

C. F. REEPS.
FALL BOARD AND MUSIC DESK.

(Application filed Oct. 11, 1900.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



WITNESSES:

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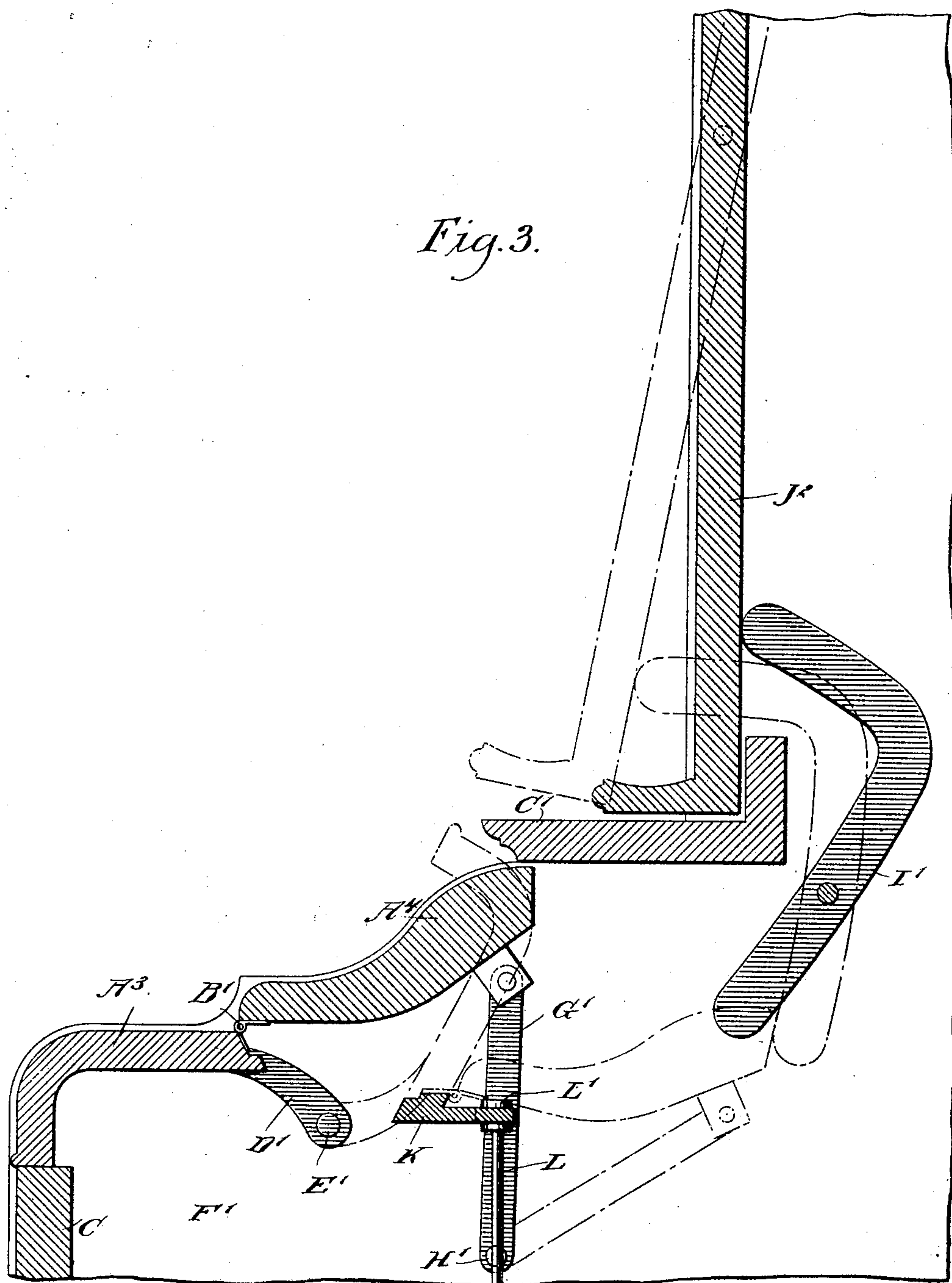
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. REEPS, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

FALL-BOARD AND MUSIC-DESK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 671,234, dated April 2, 1901.

Application filed October 11, 1900. Serial No. 32,726. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. REEPS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Fall-Board and Music-Desk, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The invention relates to pianos, organs, and like musical instruments; and its object is to provide a new and improved fall-board and music-desk which is simple and durable in construction, noiseless in operation, adapted to fold very compactly to allow the music desk or rack to come close to the keys, arranged to automatically move the music-desk into an active position upon opening the fall-board, and to allow the music-desk to return to a normal closed position upon closing the fall-board, the latter when open giving a performer unobstructed access to the keys of the keyboard.

The invention consists of novel features and parts and combinations of the same, as will be fully described hereinafter and then pointed out in the claims.

A practical embodiment of the invention is represented in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a cross-section of the improvement as applied. Fig. 2 is a sectional side elevation of the same on the line 2 2 in Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a transverse section of a modified form of the improvement.

The fall-board consists of sections A A', connected with each other by hinges B, the lower end of the section A being adapted to rest on the front C of the piano-casing and the upper end of the section A' extending under the keyboard-top C' when the fall-board is in a closed position, as shown in full lines in Fig. 1. The end of the section A connected with the hinges B is provided with downwardly and rearwardly extending arms D, pivoted at E to a key-block F, fastened by screws or other means to the piano-casing. The free end of the section A' is connected with the upper ends of links G, extending downwardly and pivoted at H to the key-block F, so that when the operator takes hold of the section A and swings the same upward

and rearward then the other section A', owing to the hinges B, is carried rearwardly and downwardly, being guided in its downward movement by the link G, as will be readily understood by reference to the dotted lines shown in Fig. 1. The inner end of the section A' when moving into an open position engages one end of a lever I, fulcrumed to the casing or other fixed part, said lever I normally resting against the back at the lower end of the music desk or rack J, fulcrumed at its sides at J' on the piano-casing. When the section A' moves into an open position, it imparts a swinging motion to the lever I, so that the latter swings the music desk or rack J into an inclined position to receive and properly support the music. (See dotted lines in Fig. 1.) The free end of the section A when in an open position abuts against the front of the part C', the section A being inclined rearwardly and upwardly, so as to give free access to the keys of the keyboard to permit the performer to properly manipulate the keys.

When it is desired to close the fall-board, the operator takes hold of the free end of the section A and swings the latter forward and downward and in doing so swings the other section A' back to its former position owing to the hinges B and the links G. When the section A' moves out of engagement with the lever I, then the latter and the music desk or rack J return to their former normal position by their own gravity. The section A of the fall-board has an extension A² in a rearward direction beyond the hinges B, and this extension forms a key-guard for preventing the keys from getting off their front pins when the piano is in transportation and the fall-board is in an open position.

As illustrated in Fig. 3, a separate key-guard K may be employed, extending longitudinally over the keys and adapted to form a rest for the hinged end of the section A³ when the fall-board is in an open position, as plainly shown in Fig. 3. This key-guard K is fastened at its ends by screws or other means on the key-block F', and the key-guard is supported between the key-sections by metal or wooden supports L, resting at their lower ends on the key-bottom or key-frame, nuts L' screwing on the supports, so as to

allow of adjusting the key-guard vertically to suit the position of the keys. The fall-board in this case is made in sections A³ A⁴, connected with each other by hinges B', but
 5 without an extension on the section A³.

The section A³ is hung on arms D', pivoted at E', and the section A⁴ is hung on links G', pivoted at H'. In operation the fall-board is opened and closed the same as above described
 10 in reference to Fig. 1, and the music desk or rack is actuated from the section A⁴ by the latter actuating a lever I', engaging the rack J².

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters
 15 Patent—

1. A piano or like musical instrument having a fall-board made in two sections, the rear section being hinged to the upper face of the front section a short distance from its inner
 20 end, downwardly-curved arms secured to the inner end of the front section and pivoted to a fixed part of the casing in rear of the inner end of said section, and links having their upper ends pivoted to the under surface of
 25 the rear section a short distance from the inner end thereof, the other ends of the links being pivoted below the inner end of the rear section, substantially as described.

2. In a piano or like musical instrument, the
 30 combination with a pivoted music-rack, of a pivoted lever adapted to engage with one end

the rack to swing it on its pivots, and a fall-board made in two sections hinged together, the front section being hinged to a fixed part of the casing and the rear section pivotally
 35 connected with the upper end of links, the lower ends of which are pivoted below the said rear section, the said section being adapted to engage the other end of the said lever with its free end when the fall-board is
 40 opened, as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a piano or like musical instrument, the combination with a pivoted music-rack, of a pivoted curved lever adapted to engage with
 45 one end the said rack, a fall-board made in two sections hinged together, downwardly and rearwardly extending arms secured to the front section and pivoted to a fixed part, and links having their upper ends pivoted to
 50 the under surface of the rear section and their lower ends pivoted to a fixed part below the said section, the free end of the said rear section being adapted to engage the other end of the said lever, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my
 55 name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES F. REEPS.

Witnesses:

J. F. HARRIS,
 W. M. BROWN.